

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05653 120759Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
/075 W

-----094376 120918Z /23

P 120640Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0840
INFO USDA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5653

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (BADAL, PARKASH SINGH), IN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

1. AS WE ARE ALSO REPORTING IN A SEPTTEL TO USDA, PARKASH SINGH BADAL, CHIEF MINISTER, STATE OF PUNJAB, AND FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION FOR THE JANATA GOVERNMENT, IS PLANNING A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US APRIL 22-30. THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT IS TO INAUGURATE A PUNJABI CULTURAL CENTER IN NEW YORK AND TO MEET INDIVIDUALS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY INTERESTED IN PUNJABI CULTURE. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. BADAL AND MR. M.S. GILL, HIS PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY. ALL THREE ARE FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

2. BADAL IS HIMSELF A FARMER, AND HIS STATE IS THE WEALTHIEST AND ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN INDIA. ALTHOUGH ONLY IN HIS EARLY 50S, BADAL HAS MORE THAN 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A POLITICIAN. HE SERVED FROM 1969-70 AS PUNJAB'S DEVELOPMENT MINISTER, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTER ALIA DAIRYING AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY; FOR A BRIEF PERIOD AFTERWARD, HE WAS THE STATE'S CHIEF MINISTER. JAILED DURING THE EMERGENCY, BADAL WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN MARCH
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1977 AND APPOINTED INDIA'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE PUNJAB STATE ASSEMBLY IN JUNE 1977 AND RESIGNED HIS CABINET POST TO BECOME CHIEF MINISTER. WE EXPECT BADAL TO REMAIN POLITICALLY IMPORTANT IN THE FUTURE. MOREOVER, HE DEMONSTRATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO BE HELPFUL TO AMERICANS BY ASSISTING AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GOHEEN DURING THEIR

RECENT TRIP THROUGH THE PUNJAB. EMBASSY BELIEVES US INTERESTS WOULD BE ADVANCED BY HELPING BADAL ARRANGE HIS US TRIP. ACCORDINGLY, SINCE BADAL'S INTERESTS ARE PRIMARILY AGRICULTURAL, WE HAVE ASKED USDA TO HELP ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE. (MESSAGE TO USDA GIVES TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND NEW YORK CONTACT POINT.) USDA'S COORDINATOR FOR BADAL'S VISIT WILL BE ROBERT SULLIVAN, REPRESENTATION AND FOREIGN VISITORS STAFF, FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE. TEL: 447-6725.

3. ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT:

--ARRANGING FOR VIP TREATMENT AT JFK ON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK ON AIR INDIA-111 APRIL 22 AND ON DEPARTURE APRIL 30 ON AIR INDIA-116;

--SCHEDULING CALLS AT THE DEPARTMENT. BADAL WANTS TO MEET PRESIDENT CARTER, WHICH WE HAVE TOLD HIM IS IMPOSSIBLE. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS HAS SUGGESTED TO US THAT BADAL MIGHT CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER OR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AS WELL AS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS. WE BELIEVE THESE APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE; BECAUSE OF TIGHT SCHEDULING, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 28;

-- ARRANGING A VISIT TO A RURAL PRISON, PREFERABLY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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TEXAS, FOR BADAL, WHO IS INTERESTED IN PRISON REFORM, WE ARE TOLD BECAUSE OF HIS PRISON EXPERIENCE DURING THE EMERGENCY.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF BADAL'S TRAVEL PLANS.

5. PLEASE INFORM US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF ARRANGEMENTS MADE.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE05653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0150
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780466/aaaacdsc.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d32fd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2994817
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER
TAGS: OVIP, IN, (BADAL, PARKASH SINGH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d32fd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014